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May 22, 1990

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PRESS THEMES: WASHINGTON SUMMIT

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Overview

- o U.S.-Soviet relations are increasingly characterized by dialogue, cooperation and a search for mutual advantage as we move beyond the Cold War era.
- o When Presidents Bush and Gorbachev met last December in Malta, they laid out priorities to guide joint efforts to build a more stable and sustainable relationship and to prepare for the Washington summit.
 - We have been intensively engaged on the full U.S.-Soviet agenda: arms control, developments in Europe, regional problems, human rights, bilateral questions, economic relations and transnational issues.
- o We look forward to a results-oriented summit. We expect to conclude a number of significant accords reflecting major progress in arms control and other bilateral areas.
- o The summit will also give President Bush an opportunity to exchange views with President Gorbachev at first hand, to explore solutions to difficult problems, and to discuss new areas of mutually beneficial cooperation.
- o The summit will be held against the backdrop of the Baltic crisis. The President will reiterate our support for self-determination for the Baltic peoples and our belief that the sides must engage in a serious dialogue.

Arms Control

- o Arms control will be a principal focus at the summit; the sides will record several agreements in their effort to build a more stable and transparent strategic relationship.
- o START: In Malta the Presidents set a goal of resolving all major substantive START issues by the summit.
 - At the Moscow ministerial, the sides resolved the issues of limits on air- and sea-launched cruise missiles.
 - We still have considerable work to do before the summit. Soviet arms control experts will come to Washington this week to try to iron out remaining differences.
 - Once the major questions have been resolved, we hope to finish a treaty as quickly as possible.

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- o CFE: Though ~~CFE is a multilateral~~ negotiation between the 23 members of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, we will urge the Soviets to work for progress toward an early agreement.
- o Chemical Weapons: We are finalizing a bilateral CW destruction agreement for signature by the Presidents.
 - Under terms of this trail-blazing agreement, the sides will halt production of chemical weapons, reduce CW stocks to 5000 agent tons, and cooperate in developing destruction technology.
 - This accord will provide an impetus to the negotiations on a multilateral convention banning chemical weapons.
- o Nuclear Testing: Verification protocols to the Threshold Test Ban and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions treaties are ready for signature at the summit.
 - These will provide for an effective verification regime through on-site hydrodynamic yield measurement, on-site inspection and in-country seismic measurements.
- o Non-proliferation: The leaders plan a joint statement on controlling the proliferation of ballistic missiles, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Developments in Europe

- o We expect the Presidents will discuss ongoing changes in the Europe and the process of German unification.
 - East-West efforts at arms control and the promotion of democratic forces have contributed to a Europe that is moving beyond confrontation and containment.
 - Although the role of a unified Germany in Europe will not be determined in Washington or in Moscow, but by the German people in concert with all concerned parties in Europe, the Presidents will likely address the unification process.
 - We will underscore our view that a unified, fully sovereign Germany in NATO is the best outcome for European stability.
- o We understand Soviet concerns as the European order changes.
 - In part to address these, President Bush proposed steps for NATO to consider: early CFE follow-on negotiations, accelerated talks on short-range nuclear forces, a strengthened CSCE process and a review of NATO strategy.

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Allied Considerations

- o We have been consulting closely with our allies in NATO and Asia on our overall approach to East-West relations.
 - East-West relations were a major subject at the May 3 NATO ministerial and will be a major topic at other high-level meetings this summer.
 - The U.S.-European partnership, especially as expressed in the continuity of purpose in NATO, has been a valuable pillar during this period when East-West security relations are rapidly evolving.

Regional Problems

- o Regional conflicts are an important part of the U.S.-Soviet agenda and can affect the overall relationship.
 - We are encouraged by signs of "new thinking" in Moscow's regional policy. The Soviet contribution to the Namibia settlement and endorsement of the transfer of power in Nicaragua are steps in the right direction.
 - However, Soviet military assistance to key Third World clients continues to fuel regional conflicts. We have been pressing the Soviets to extend "new thinking" across the board.
- o Afghanistan: We have been underscoring to Moscow the need for a political settlement. We have made a number of proposals to advance the process. Now the ball is in the Soviet court on the role of Najibullah in a transition.
- o Central America: We are encouraging the Soviets to use their influence with Cuba to end the flow of arms to the FMLN in El Salvador and to get Havana to act more responsibly in the region.
- o Africa: We are discussing with Moscow joint efforts to facilitate mediation efforts between the government of Angola and UNITA, and ways to cooperate in providing relief to the famine areas of Ethiopia.
- o Asia: We would like to see more "new thinking" applied to Soviet relations with Asia.
- o Kashmir: We are concerned about the deteriorating situation in Kashmir and are trying to work in parallel with the Soviets to urge restraint on India and Pakistan.

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Human Rights

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- o This topic will be -- as always -- a high priority. The Soviets have made considerable progress, but more remains to be done.
- o The President proposed in Malta that the Soviets "zero out" the remaining refusenik and divided family cases -- now approximately 60 in number. While some have been allowed to leave, others continue to be denied the right to emigrate.
- o We are concerned by signs of anti-Semitism in the USSR and are urging Moscow to speak out definitively against it.
- o We are also encouraging the Soviets to move ahead on their stated goal of codifying greater respect for human rights by changes in law and regulation.
 - We look in particular for Supreme Soviet passage of the new emigration law.

Bilateral Matters

- o Bilateral relations -- exchange programs, people-to-people contacts and better conditions for diplomatic operations -- have improved in parallel with the overall relationship.
 - The U.S. continues to promote private and official contacts as well as information exchanges at all levels to test "new thinking" and dispel misperceptions.
- o The sides will conclude several agreements at the summit, including accords on:
 - the specifics of implementation of the President's Malta proposal to increase university-level student exchanges;
 - establishing cultural-information centers in Washington and Moscow;
 - fixing the Pacific maritime boundary between the U.S. and USSR;
 - cooperation in ocean studies; and
 - cooperation in peaceful uses of atomic energy.

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Economic Relations

- o At the summit we anticipate signing a long-term grains agreement and maritime transportation agreement.
- o A trade agreement, which will provide the basis for expanded commercial relations between the U.S. and USSR, should also be ready for signature. This agreement, along with Presidential waiver of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, is necessary for extension of most-favored-nation trading status.
 - The President conditioned MFN on passage of new Soviet emigration legislation; the Supreme Soviet is due to consider such a law on May 31.
- o An expanded civil aviation agreement that would increase air routes between the two countries also may be ready.
- o We would expect to review at the summit the technical cooperation projects -- designed to share U.S. experience as the Soviets move toward a more market-oriented economy -- which the President proposed at the Malta summit.

Transnational Issues

- o Both sides are discovering new possibilities in their discussions on questions such as the environment, counterterrorism and narcotics control.
- o The sides will sign or announce several agreements reflecting this expanding cooperation.

Change in the USSR

- o This summit will take place against the backdrop of the Baltic situation.
 - The President will reiterate our support for self-determination for the Baltic peoples, noting that it should proceed in a peaceful and democratic manner.
 - He will raise our concern about the Soviet economic blockade against Lithuania, and stress the need for a dialogue Moscow and Vilnius to begin a serious dialogue.
- o President Bush will also want to hear President Gorbachev's views on restructuring in the USSR, including legal reform, institution-building and decentralization of power.
 - He will be interested to hear Mr. Gorbachev's comments on the challenges facing perestroika, including the nationalities question and the state of the economy.

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